



Holy Cross Catholic Parish

Twinning with St. Patrick's Parish

SUNDAY - July 21, 2024
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In Christ Jesus you who once were far off have become near. Throughout the readings for this weekend, we hear of God's bringing together and caring for God's people. The image of God as shepherd is a very central one in Scripture. Do you experience a Shepherd? Our God is a shepherd and parent and how God has made himself known to us in the history of Israel and in the life story of Jesus is something we need to remember. Our God, our abba father, our parent is seen as a God who is passionately in search of us, a God whose only concern is our wellbeing, and a God whose heart is set on wanting to be our God, a God-for-and-with-us-people. He comes across as a God in whose eyes you and I are precious, a God to whom you and I matter, a God who has an immense faith and trust in us, a God who delights in being known as our God. A God who goes all out in committing himself to us, a God who pledges fidelity to us, a God who is prepared, in the bright and dark sides of our life and family stories and in many grey areas, to see it through with us. What a parent!

But sadly, there are other voices and parenting styles, which speak of God as well. The other side of the coin of that pathetic caricature of the true God of Jesus is that he robs us of our humanity. He is constantly down on us. You get the impression that he finds it a nuisance having us around. In fact, he takes pleasure in keeping us in our place and in stepping on us when we are down. It is the kind of God that tears to shreds any kind of self-respect we may have. We owe no allegiance to that kind of God; in fact, we do ourselves a great service if we refuse to believe in such a God. Any God who competes with or destroys our dignity is a false God. This does not mean that the God of Jesus places no demands on us. He does, but in doing so he does not want us to become slaves, insignificant nobodies. He values us, and he believes us capable of being responsible Covenant partners to him.

Herein lies our greatest dignity. God seeks us out not to be his useless slaves, but to be his trusted creatures. To yield to this God, to respond to his summons, will never impede our growth. It will never be an obstacle to our development as people; on the contrary, it will give us the space we need to become our true selves. It will enable us to overcome everything that, either inside ourselves or outside of us prevents us from becoming God's friends, and in the process, we will become our true selves. The Apostles had done much and well, and Jesus wanted to have a little vacation-Bible school. The class certainly got larger and He, the Shepherd, was moved from His deepest self to care for the lost and hungry. He taught them many things and, in the verses, following those which we hear, Jesus creates a bread and fish picnic for them. Next week we will hear a similar narrative from the Gospel of John relating the actual feeding.

We come to the Eucharist to be met and fed by the same nourishing shepherd. We come as parents, children, young and old and we gather in His name. We are not interrupting His tranquility, but allowing Jesus to render us tranquil, cared-for and then our being sent to be what we receive. We who grow up to know how important it is to feed the spiritually hungry are the blessed ones. It means we have been nourished ourselves, that someone showed compassion to us and gave us a glimpse of how much bigger life is. Saint Gregory the Great said it best... *Our Lord's sheep will finally reach their grazing ground where all who follow him in simplicity of heart will feed on the green pastures of eternity.*

Eyes on the Joyful Shepherd Jesus,
Father William

OFFICE HOURS

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: Closed
Tuesday/Wednesday: 9am—2:00pm
Thursday/Friday: 9am—2:30pm

4049 Gordon Head Road Victoria, BC
V8N 3X7
Phone: 250-477-5321 Fax: 250-721-1844
office@holycrossvictoria.org

***We acknowledge and respect the
Lekwungen peoples on whose
traditional territory Holy Cross Parish
stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt
and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose
historical relationships with the land
continue to this day.***

Report Sexual Abuse

To report sexual abuse by a clergy member, religious, employee, or volunteer, visit RCDVictoria.org/Responsible-Ministry or call 1-800-968-3146

To report sexual abuse or cover-up by a Catholic Bishop, visit BishopReportingSystem.ca or call 1-866-892-3737

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Live Mass broadcast this weekend! Mass is livestreamed this week from St. Patrick's Parish at 11am Sunday. Click the link here: <http://www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksHolyCrossChurch>

2024/25 Sacramental Preparation Programs for Children/Teenagers of St Patrick's and Holy Cross

Journey of Faith for Teenagers: Learn about the Catholic Faith, what it means to follow Jesus, and how to receive the graces needed to live the Way, the Truth and the Life. This program is designed for teenagers to venture on a faith journey and enter new life in right relationship with God. Students may prepare to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Communion and Reconciliation, as appropriate. ALL STUDENTS AGED 13+ YEARS OLD ARE WELCOME. Each student must participate with a sponsor.

Journey of Faith for Children: Does your child want to learn more about the Catholic Faith? This program is designed for children to venture on a faith journey and enter new life in relationship with God. Candidates may prepare for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Communion and Reconciliation, as appropriate. ALL SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN AGED 9-12 YEARS OLD ARE WELCOME. Each student must participate with a parent.

Together in Jesus First Reconciliation for Grades 2 and 3: Children who are baptized are ready to prepare for First Reconciliation in the Year 1 group when they reach the minimum age of 7 years old. This program is suitable for children 7-9 years old. Lessons edify their imagination and sense of wonder through storytelling, interactive learning, and prayer rituals. Each student must participate with a parent.

Together in Jesus Confirmation and First Communion for Grades 3 and 4: Children who have received the sacrament of First Reconciliation are ready to prepare for Confirmation and First Communion in the Year 2 group. Candidates who were in the First Reconciliation Year 1 group at St Patrick's/Holy Cross are automatically registered into the Year 2 group. If your child is not registered and wishes to join this group, please contact the Sacramental Prep Coordinator - Michele Bristow mbristow@rcdvictoria.org.

Please attend one of the Parent Info Sessions to be held on **Saturday Sep 14 at 3pm or Sep 21 at 5:15pm (30 min) at Holy Cross**. The First Reconciliation session for baptized candidates begins on Oct 5. Preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion begins in January. This year all classes take place at Holy Cross Parish (4049 Gordon Head Rd) before or after the Saturday 4pm mass. For more information, contact the Sacramental Prep Coordinator - Michele Bristow mbristow@rcdvictoria.org. Registration forms are available online: https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/cf/cf43cd4b-2408-4957-a83c-d18c6511d74a/documents/Registration_Form_2020_SP_-_Yrs_I_II_-_FILLABLE.pdf

Become a Volunteer Catechist 2024-2025

Grow in and share your faith with children and youth of St Patrick's and Holy Cross parishes. Effective catechists are patient, responsible, confident and creative. You bring a generosity of spirit, respect for diversity and a habit of hospitality and inclusion. We provide you with training in Catholic teaching, Scripture and Tradition to teach students and their families. Complete a [Ministry Volunteer Application Form](#) and submit it to the parish office. For more information contact the Sacramental Prep Coordinator Michele Bristow mbristow@rcdvictoria.org. For volunteer screening procedures go to: <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/responsible-ministry>

A Milestone Anniversary



On August 15, 2024, Father William will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood.

In honour of this special milestone, there will be a celebration!

Please join us for Mass beginning at 4pm followed by a bring-your-own picnic supper, at Holy Cross Parish. Beverages will be provided.

Please RSVP to office@holycrossvictoria.org, call 250-477-5321 or sign up in the foyer.



Prayer Reflection

A recipe has no soul. You as the cook must bring soul to the recipe.
—*Thomas Keller, cookbook author and restaurateur*

Our Lord's sheep will finally reach their grazing ground where all who follow him in simplicity of heart will feed on the green pastures of eternity.
—*Saint Gregory the Great*

Question of the Week

Should I read the Bible?

Don't think of it as an obligation. Do it because it's the most wonderful choice you can make for your life! If you attend Mass faithfully, you're already familiar with the overall story. The lectionary—the book of readings used at Mass—covers a cross-section of passages from Old and New Testaments, paired as promises fulfilled. The idea of opening to Genesis, chapter one, makes many folks shrink from the attempt. You don't have to read scripture cover to cover. You may appreciate the support of parish-sponsored Bible study or faith-sharing groups. Page-a-day reflection books provide an easy introduction to bite-sized verses for beginners. Think of it like a swim class: Sign up at the level that suits your current skill. The Bible is the Everest of books. You won't conquer it at once. It will take training to reach the more exotic parts. But with practice, you'll become more fit for the journey you're undertaking. Start today! Like Eucharist, the **word of God** is intended to be food for the journey. A sound appreciation of our sacred story and its inspired guidance is vital to the life of every believer: God becomes known to us through the conversation he desires to have with us.

OUR LITURGICAL LIFE

SATURDAY, July 20, 2024

4PM MASS: Pro Populo

SUNDAY, July 21, 2024

9AM MASS: Tony Hann+

MONDAY, July 22, 2024

NO MASS

TUESDAY, July 23, 2024

9AM Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Gilles Coupal+

WEDNESDAY, July 24, 2024

NO MASS

THURSDAY, July 25, 2024

9AM Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Chris Siller+

FRIDAY, July 26, 2024

NO MASS

The Chapel will be open this week Tuesday to Friday 9 - 12

Masks are optional at this time

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available from 3:00- 3:45 on Saturdays

Baptismal Prep Do you want to have your child welcomed into the family of God through baptism? To prepare you must complete a registration form and complete a Baptismal Preparation course. The next course will be held on Saturday, August 31 from 10 - 12. Please email hcspbaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org with your name and contact information. The coordinator will then contact you with more details about baptism.

COLLECTIONS , July 14, 2024

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

Envelopes	\$ 1,865.00
Loose	\$ 430.00
Pre-Authorized Debit	\$ 1,015.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,310.00

The 10th Annual Family Life Conference and Camp

The planning committee for the 10th Annual Family Life Conference and Camp is looking for volunteers to assist with the camp. If interested in volunteering, please email: familycamp@rcdvictoria.org.

In addition, registration continues for this camp at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/family-camp>



Thank you!

Thank you, Benjamin, for volunteering to be a lector at last Saturday's Mass. You did an amazing job reading both the First Reading and the Prayers of the Faithful! There is a bright future for you in this role, and you provided an example for other children who might like to read at Mass. Well done!



News from the Chancery

- 1) Holy Trinity Parish in Nanaimo is seeking a full time receptionist/admin assistant to support the Pastor and parish. For more information about the position and how to apply, please visit <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>. Applications must be received by Friday, July 26.
- 2) The 2024 World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated on Sunday, July 28. This year's theme is "Do not cast me off in my old age" (Psalm 71:9), and the Catholic faithful are invited to reflect on the loneliness of the elderly and the role of the Church in addressing it. For more information, including Pope Francis' message for the Day and the official Prayer, please visit <https://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/eventi/2024/iv-giornata-mondiale-dei-nonni-e-degli-anziani.html>.
- 3) The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops recently concluded its Triennial Forum for Dialogues. The Forum brought together participants from across the country, including the Diocese of Victoria, to take steps towards a comprehensive national ecumenical & interfaith strategy. A video recap is available online at <https://youtu.be/ac8isk8XkE0>; for further information, please visit <https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/cccb-triennial-forum-for-dialogues-concludes-with-strategic-ecumenical-vision/>
- 4) Registration is now open for Life Restoration Ministries' Men's Retreat, to be held from September 20-22, 2024, at Rock Ridge Canyon in Princeton, BC. The theme of this year's retreat is "Perfect Storms". Through inspiring talks, the Sacraments, and outdoor adventures, Jake Khym (founder of Life Restoration Ministries) and Sam Blair (retired US Navy SEAL) will guide participants through a prayerful weekend, helping them receive the perfect and transforming love of Jesus amidst life's storms. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.liferestoration.ca/mens-retreat>.
- 5) The Diocese of Victoria is now accepting applications for a full time temporary Intermediate Accountant. This position will assist the Controller in the administration of Diocesan financial operations by providing accounting services to the Catholic Independent Schools. The job posting is attached to this email, and may also be viewed at <https://www.rcdvictoria.org/employment>. All applications must be received by August 2, 2024.

CWL Fantastic Fall Bazaar will be held on October 5, 2024

Donations to the Fall Bazaar at St. Patrick's Parish will be accepted **beginning August 1st and continuing until October 4**, Tuesdays to Fridays from 11am - 3pm. Donations needed are: Books, CDs, DVDs and Jigsaw Puzzles, Christian jewellery, statues, crucifixes, large and small, new Christmas items (no lights), garden produce, fruit, fresh flowers, bouquets, house plants, garden tools and accessories (no wicker baskets, silk or dried flowers), home baking divided into small packages and labeled, household items, china, pictures, small appliances and Halloween décor (no plastic items, large appliances or cameras), Jewellery of any kind, kids' games, puzzles, books, new and like-new toys, and Silent Auction items (one-of-a-kind new items, product or Contribution of Service). Please see the poster on the bulletin board in the foyer at Holy Cross Parish for more details if you wish to have your donation picked up.

Pastor: Vacant

Executive Team:

Catherine Davis, John Bartle-Clar, Dave Begg

Hospital Chaplain: 250-889-3761

Administrative Assistants: Phil & Sheila Wall
250-477-5321 office@holycrossvictoria.org

Office Assistant: Joanie Bidlake
250-477-5321 officeassistant@holycrossvictoria.org

University Chaplain: Vacant

Parish Council Chair: Catherine Davis

Sacramental Preparation: Michele Bristow
mbristow@rcdvictoria.org

Baptismal Preparation: Beverly Pulyk
hcsbpaptismalprep@rcdvictoria.org

REGULAR MASS TIMES

Mass times - Holy Cross Parish: 4pm Saturday, 9am Sunday; **Liturgy of the Word with Communion:** 9am Tuesday and 9am Thursday

Mass times - St. Patrick's Parish: 11am Sunday, 4pm Sunday; 12:10pm Wednesday and 12:10pm Friday

Confessions: 3:00 - 3:45pm Saturdays, Holy Cross Parish; 11:30am on Friday at St. Patrick's Parish

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CALLS:

If you or someone you love is admitted to hospital and would like a visit from our VGH/RJH hospital chaplain, please call the emergency pager **250-889-3761** and ask for **Fr. Sean Flynn** to make this request.